



Afternoon Alert - Tuesday, July 3, 2018

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HEADLINES

Noon news

All networks except TV Asahi led with reports on Typhoon Prapiroon, which is approaching Kyushu. TV Asahi led with a report on the Japan-Belgium match at the FIFA World Cup.

INTERNATIONAL

USG announces Secretary Pompeo's visit to North Korea this week

NHK reported this morning on the USG announcement that Secretary of State Pompeo will visit North Korea this week to meet with Chairman Kim. The network showed White House Press Secretary Sanders saying at a press briefing on Monday: "To continue the ongoing and important denuclearization process on the Korean Peninsula, Secretary Pompeo will be leaving for North Korea on July 5 to meet with the North Korean leader and his team." The network said that according to a press statement released by the State Department, the Secretary will visit North Korea until July 7 "to continue consultations and implement the forward progress made by President Trump and Chairman Kim in Singapore." The network added the Secretary will then visit Tokyo July 7-8 and meet with Japanese and South Korean officials to discuss North Korea's denuclearization. The network added in its noon news that Foreign Minister Kono told reporters this morning that he will hold bilateral talks with Secretary Pompeo when he visits Tokyo on July 7-8. Kono was quoted as saying: "I would like to directly receive a briefing from the Secretary about his discussions with the North Koreans and exchange views. I would also like to hear from the Secretary the DPRK's concrete commitment to denuclearization."

Abe's foreign policy advisor Kawai says North Korea attaches weight to abduction issue

NHK reported online that Special Advisor to Prime Minister Abe on Foreign Policy Kawai, who is currently visiting the U.S., delivered a speech at a think tank on Monday in Washington. He reportedly said North Korea's insistence that the abduction issue is already settled indicates the nation regards the issue as extremely important for improving the Japan-DPRK relationship. In addition, Kawai reportedly said: "Unless there is progress in the abduction issue, Japan should not change its policy of maintaining sanctions and pressure and Prime Minister Abe will not be able to meet with Chairman Kim Jong Un."

- [Coordination underway to hold TICAD in August next year](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Portland, Setagaya launch association to deepen exchanges](#) (Asahi)

ECONOMY

- [Japan eyes more renewable energy use, plans to cut plutonium pile](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Tankan drops for 2nd straight quarter](#) (The Japan News)
- [Japan Inc's overseas M&As soar to a record \\$106bn in first half](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Japan, Australia hold first ministerial economic dialogue, agree to cooperate on RCEP, TPP](#) (Nikkei)

POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on July 2, 2018](#) (Nikkei)
- [Kono leads work-style reforms at MOFA to focus on diplomacy](#) (Nikkei)
- [LDP Diet members unaffiliated with a faction busy as party presidential election draws near](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Hundreds of dignitaries honor Yoshio Okawara, former Japanese ambassador to U.S.](#) (The Japan Times)
- [Strengths and weaknesses in Abe cabinet: Part 3 – Abe popular among those in their 20s](#) (Nikkei)
- [Cartoon: Doves v. Abe](#) (Akahata)
- [Cartoon: Abe](#) (Kanagawa Shimbun)

OPINION POLLS

- [Trend in average cabinet support rate, Saitama University Social Survey Research Center](#) (Saitama University Social Survey Research Center)

SCIENCE

- [Japan researchers find protein that softens traumatic memories, hope for PTSD treatment](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Cartoon: Hayabusa2](#) (Asahi)

SOCIETY

- [Japan sewing firm loses license to train foreigners over violation](#) (Kyodo News)

SECURITY

- [United Nations Command stepped up use of U.S. bases in Japan last year amid North Korean weapons tests](#) (The Japan Times)
- [MOD to set up first supply depot for GSDF in Okinawa](#) (Sankei)
- [Ministry study finds IoT devices connected to critical infrastructure vulnerable to cyberattacks](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Defense Minister Onodera visits JAXA](#) (Mainichi)
- [Returned U.S. base land in Okinawa being redeveloped successfully](#) (Asahi, Evening edition)
- [Expert: Japan acquired right to reprocess plutonium through negotiations with U.S.](#) (Nikkei)
- [Colleges targeted, 12,000 info leaks confirmed](#) (Sankei)
- [Iwakuni: Local communities and the U.S. base – More noise following runway relocation](#) (Chugoku Shimbun)

OKINAWA LOCAL PRESS

Nago assembly adopts resolution over incident involving stray bullet

Okinawa Times and Ryukyu Shimpō wrote that the Nago assembly unanimously adopted on Monday a resolution and an opinion paper concerning the discovery last month of a bullet in a farm shed near Range 10 on Camp Schwab. The documents requested that the cause of the incident be determined and made available to the public swiftly by claiming that it appears highly likely that the bullet was used by the U.S. military because similar incidents involving the U.S. military have happened in the area in the past. The resolution was addressed to the Okinawa Area Coordinator, while the opinion paper was addressed to the director of the Defense Ministry's Okinawa bureau and the chief of the Okinawa Prefectural police.

In a related development, Ryukyu Shimpō wrote that Lower House member Kantoku Teruya and eight other Social Democratic Party members from Okinawa filed a criminal complaint on Monday against the Okinawa Area Coordinator, the Camp Schwab commander, and an unidentified U.S. servicemember on charges of attempted murder and damaging property. The politicians argue that conducting live-fire training on Range 10 at Camp Schwab while acknowledging the structural danger at the range constitutes “willful negligence.”
